

Message Text

SECRET

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 T-03 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01

IO-12 /139 W

----- 069521

O R 160605 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3058

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

CIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 7/13 AF

USDEL FRANCE IMMEDIATE

SECDEF

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 1925

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, MARR, MASS,

MCAP, MOPS, MILI, LA, US, VN, XC

SUBJECT: LAOS CEASEFIRE - THIRD WEEK

REF: VIENTIANE 1697

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BEGIN SUMMARY: THE THIRD WEEK FOLLOWING THE LAOS
CEASEFIRE SAW GROUND ACTION CONTINUE AT A LOW LEVEL
(APPROX TEN MINOR INCIDENTS PER DAY). RLAF SORTIES
WERE UP FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK AS SOME STRIKES WERE
MADE AGAINST TRAGETS UNRELATED TO IMMEDIATE GROUND
ACTION. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE RLG AND THE LPF ON
IMPLEMENTING THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT MADE NO PROGRESS
IN THE MILITARY SIDE BECAUSE THE TWO SIDES HAVE
DIFFERING CONCEPTS OF THE PROPER ORDER OF PROCEDURE.
ATTENTION IS TURNING TO FORMATION OF THE PORVISIONAL
COALITION GOVT, WHICH IS SCHEDULED BY THE AGREEMENT TO
OCCUR BEFORE MARCH 23. THE KING IS INSISTING THAT CON-
STITUTIONAL PROCEDURES BY RESPECTED, WHICH MAY CAUSE
PROBLEMS FOR SOUVANNA IN GETTING ALL SIDES TO
AGREE ON THE GOVERNMENT AND ON IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS
OF THE ACCORDS. END SUMMARY.

1. MILITARY ACTION ON THE GROUND CONTINUED AT A LOW
LEVEL DURING THE LAST SEVEN DAYS. THERE WAS AN AVERAGE
OF TEN MINOR INCIDENTS PER DAY WHICH CONSTITUTED CEASE-
FIRE VIOLATIONS. THE RLG COUNT OF ENEMY- INITIATED
CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, ROSE DURING THE WEEK FROM 177 TO
242 (THE FIRST WEEK OF THE CEASEFIRE ACCOUNTED FOR 132
OF THESE VIOLATIONS). MAJOR VIOLATIONS INCLUDED A
HEAVY ENEMY ARTILLERY ATTACK MARCH 9 ON A FRIENDLY
POSITION NORTHWEST OF BOUAM LONG IN MR- II, A SHARP
GROUND ATTACK MARCH 11 ON A FRIENDLY VILLAGE SOUTH OF
SOUKHOUMA IN MR- IV, THE MARCH 12 SEIZURE OF A FRIENDLY
POSITION NORTHEAST OF PA DONG IN MR- II, AND AN ATTACK
ON A FRIENDLY VILLAGE SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK ON MARCH 13.
FRIENDLY POSITIONS WERE GIVEN UP TO THE ENEMY WELL EAST
OF HOUET SAI MARCH 8 AND WELL NORTHWEST OF BOUAM LONG
MARCH 9. SCATTERED CLASHES WERE ALSO REPORTED SOUTHEAST
OF THE PLAIN OF JARS DURING THE WEEK. THERE ARE IN-
CREASING INDICATIONS THAT RLG FORCES ARE PLANNING
CAMPAIGNS TO SECURE TERRAIN LOST TO THE COMMUNISTS JUST
BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE, BUT WHETHER THEY CAN OR WILL
IMPLEMENT THEIR PLANS IS CONJECTURAL.

2. RLAF T-28 SORTIES WERE MORE NUMEROUS THAN DURING THE
PREVIOUS WEEK. ALTHOUGH FLYING WELL BELOW THE PRE-
CEASEFIRE RATE, RLAF FREQUENTLY EMPLOYED T-28'S AGAINST
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QUESTIONABLE TARGETS SUCH AS ENEMY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS

OF NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO FRIENDLY GROUND FORCES OR
SITES OVER WHICH PL FLAGS HAD BEEN RAISED.

3. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE RLG AND THE LPF ON
IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT MADE
NO PROGRESS THIS WEEK. THE JOINT RLG/ LPF POLITICAL
AND MILITARY GRUUPS HAVE REACHED AN IMPASSE BECAUSE
THE TWO SIDES HAVE DIFFERING CONCEPTS OF THE ROLE OF
THESE TWO GROUPS. THE MILITARY GROUP MET MARCH 8
AND 9, AND THE RLG PROPOSED THAT THREE JOINT CEASEFIRE
COMMITTEES BE LOCATED IN VIENTIANE PROVINCE, NONE AT
MILITARY REGION LEVEL, AND 46 JOINT FIELD CEASEFIRE
COMMITTEES BE ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. AT
THE POLITICAL GROUP MEETING MARCH 8 THE RLG PROPOSED
THAT THE JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL (JNPC) BE
COMPOSED OF 16 PERSONS FROM EACH SIDE PLUS 8 OTHER
INDIVIDUALS, CHOSEN BY SOUVANNA AND SOUPHANOUVONG. THE LPF AGREED
TO
CONSIDER THESE PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION IN A PROTOCOL
TO THE AGREEMENT BUT REFUSES TO IMPLEMENT ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES UNTIL
THE COMPLETE PROTOCOL IS DEvised AND SIGNED.

4. THE TWENTY- SECOND SESSION OF THE " TUESDAY TALSK"
MARCH 13 ALSO FAILED TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY. RLG DEL CHIEF
NGON SANANIKONE PROPOSED SETTING UP AGENDAS FOR THE
TALKS AND FORMING THE JCIA, BUT HE WAS REBUFFED ON BOTH
ISSUES BY LPF DEL CHIEF PHOUN SIPRASEUTH. AGAIN, THE
LPF OPPOSED FORMING THE JCIA UNTIL A PROTOCOL DEFINING
THE DUTIES OF THE JCIA HAS BEEN SIGNED.

5. SOUVANNA FLEW TO LUANG PRABANG MARCH 10-11 TO CONSULT
WITH THE KING, WHO APPARENTLY ADVISED HIM TO HEW MORE
CLOSELY TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES BY SEEKING APPROVAL
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT AND
THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. AT ITS REGULAR WEEKLY
MEETING MARCH 14, THE CABINET DECIDED THAT THE PRIMIN
SHOULD EXPLAIN THE AGREEMENT TO THE ASSEMBLY' S STANDING
COMMITTEE BY MEMO AND SHOULD LATER SUBMIT THE NEW GOVT
TO THE ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL, AS WAS DONE IN 19 62. THE
STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY MET MARCH 15 ALSO TO
CONSIDER THE QUESTION BUT REACHED NO DECISION IN A HEATED
SESSION. WITH THE DEADLINE FOR FORMATION OF THE PGNU ONLY
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SEVEN DAYS AWAY, INCREASING ATTENTION IS TURNING TO THIS
ISSUE.
GODLEY

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